

The Weinstein Report - SPECIAL EDITION

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District 1 Community Report
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson



2015

IN REVIEW

Engaging the Community

Engaging D1 Citizens in Citizen Workshops

The most effective way to know the issues in our community and the ideas of its citizens is by hearing directly from the people who I represent. I learned this by knocking on thousands of doors before taking office. I held two "Community Workshops," one in January and one in February, to elicit input from community members on their most important issues and ideas for improving the County. These workshops were also a great way to establish lines of communication with the citizens in the first district as I entered office as a new Council member.

These Sessions resulted in district focus on sidewalk projects, changes to the Board of Education, addressing development concerns, enforcement of speed limits, and economic development in the district's main street communities. The workshops contribute to creating a more formal method for developing a close working relationship with the community.

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"The first year has flown by. I have been thrilled to work with the community, my Council colleagues, and the County Executive on important issues and ideas since taking office last December. This report provides a quick summary of some highlights from the past 12 months. I look forward to 2016 and working with you in the years ahead." - Jon

★★★★★★★★★★

Budget FY2016

Working with my Council Colleagues and the County Executive we were able to produce a budget reflecting our priorities and continuing the high quality-of-life we experience in Howard County. The process to review the budget included 20 formal meetings over three months, including nearly 100 hours of formal and informal testimony and deliberation.

I made sure funding for several major projects in District 1 remained in the Capital Budget including funding for the ElkrIDGE Library & Senior Center, new ElkrIDGE Fire Station, land acquisition for "High School #13," and funds to address flood mitigation in historic Ellicott City.

Creating Advisory "Community Cabinet" for District 1

One result of the Citizen Workshops was forming a Community Cabinet with membership from District 1 homeowner and community association boards and relevant civic groups in the District. The purpose of the Cabinet is to bring together these organizations to raise common concerns, forward ideas to benefit the entire district, and share or develop solutions to common problems. The Community Cabinet met twice in 2015 and will have quarterly meetings in 2016. In addition to working together during meetings, I will bring in resources from the state and local government, non-profit community, and area experts to address topics of shared interest. I look forward to continuing the work of this unique group in Howard County.

To learn more about the Community Cabinet, click [here](#)

Promoting the Economy & Environment

Local Business Initiative

As a local business owner, I have personally experienced the barriers small businesses face when placing a bid on government contracts. During my campaign for office I pledged to introduce a program like this, to spend the County's tax dollars here in Howard County with local businesses. County Executive Kittleman shared this philosophy and I was happy to work with him and his team to craft the Local Business Initiative. I joined him, Chamber of Commerce President Leonardo McClarty (a District 1 resident), and Howard County Economic Development Authority CEO Larry Twle at the Chamber's office for this important announcement.

Click [here](#) to watch the video announcement.



Flood Advisory Group for Historic Ellicott City

Historic Ellicott City is called the "gem" of Howard County. The shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues are unmatched by any other Main Street communities in Maryland. In 2011, when Tropical Storm Lee hit Main Street and left many homes and shops flooded, including my business, I made it a priority to investigate ways to make sure the danger was addressed. One of the first initiatives I took on after taking office was working with County Executive Kittleman to form a working group to review previous studies, conduct additional research, and make specific recommendations on ways to confront this issue. My Special Assistant, Gary Smith served as an advisor to this group and I am excited that the recommendations of this group will soon be presented to the County Administration.

Click [here](#) to read the Baltimore Sun article

BWI Airport Noise Disturbances

Since early this spring, I have been working with Dr. Calvin Ball (District 2 Councilmember) and our Federal elected representatives to address a significant increase of noise in the Elkrigde and Hanover areas due to changes in the flight patterns of planes flying in and out of BWI Airport. The initial issues associated with runway construction have been resolved, while I continue to address more long-term noise concerns resulting from implementation of the federally mandated Next Gen navigation system. I will continue to work with my County colleagues, state officials, and our federal representatives to push the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide a plan and timetable for adjusting the flight paths. Additionally, I will be reaching out to the Attorney General to consider possible legal options available to the state and community members.

Click [here](#) to read full story

Elkrigde Revitalization

The Elkrigde community has been a focus of mine since taking office last year. The revitalization and redevelopment of US Route 1 and the Elkrigde Main Street area to be Howard County's Northern Gateway will be an important economic driver for the area and County. Over the year I have met with residents, community groups, business owners, CSX, and the County government to gain a great appreciation for the work ahead. I recently formed a group to focus initially on sparking momentum in the historic Elkrigde Main Street area, including seeking state designation that can bring needed attention and funding to Elkrigde. I am eager to move forward on this and other Elkrigde initiatives.

Supporting Education

On November 16th, I was thrilled to announce the launch of Driving Student Success, a program to provide students participating in after-school activities with a bus ride home through funding from local business donations.

I worked closely with the Bright Minds Foundation and the Howard County school system to create this exciting program. Bright Minds, a great local non-profit educational foundation works to "support education, aspirations and the opportunity to succeed for all students within the Howard County Public School System."

Click [here](#) to read full article

"There is a direct correlation between a student's academic success and future opportunities and their involvement in activities after school. Whether participating in a club, seeking extra help or playing a sport, our students should have the opportunity to stay after school and still have access to transportation home." - Jon Weinstein



Simulated Congressional Hearings



From early May to early June, my Special Assistant, Gary Smith and I participated as judges for the Simulated Congressional Hearings in ten elementary schools located in the First District. Participating in this program is one of my favorite activities each year.

I have participated in nearly 40 hearings over the past several years. For those not familiar with the program, every 5th grade student in the county works in groups to study the United States Constitution and the history surrounding the document. Each group presents their findings to a panel of "judges" in a hearing-styled forum. No matter how many hearings I attend, I leave each school feeling inspired by the work, words, and enthusiasm the 5th graders demonstrate throughout the day. I encourage everyone to consider volunteering to support this great event that bolsters our democracy.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Simulated Congressional

The Legislative Table

Summary of Council Legislation Introduced and Co-Sponsored by Jon Weinstein

Bill/Resolution Number	Title	Sponsor(s)	Results
CR16-2015	A RESOLUTION requesting that the Howard County Police Department's Citizen Advisory Council establish a Committee on Community Policing and make recommendations related to community policing	Introduced by: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa, and Jon Weinstein	Passed as amended
CR116-2015	A RESOLUTION endorsing an application by Linwood Center, Inc. to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Investment Tax Credit program providing tax credits for individuals who donate to certain 501(c)(3) organizations.	Introduced by: Jon Weinstein at the request of Linwood Center, Inc.	Passed
CB6-2015	AN ACT amending the Howard County Code to clarify that the Department of Planning and Zoning is required to send their technical staff reports for any petitions considered by the Zoning Board, County Council, Planning Board, Hearing Examiner, or Board of Appeals to the appropriate decision making body and the general public at least two weeks prior to the required public hearing or meeting; generally related to the Department of Planning and Zoning's technical staff reports.	Introduced by: Mary Kay Sigaty Co-sponsored by: Dr. Calvin Ball, Jennifer Terrasa, and Jon Weinstein	Passed
CB28-2015	AN ACT prohibiting the use of Electronic Smoking Devices in certain public places and in certain places of employment; defining certain terms; and generally relating to smoking in Howard County.	Introduced by: Jon Weinstein, Co-sponsored by: Calvin Ball, Jennifer Terrasa,	Passed as amended

Summary of State Legislation supported by Jon Weinstein

HB0284 / CH0082	Submitted written testimony in support of legislation introduced by Delegate Flanagan: Election Law - Local Petitions - Advance Determination of Sufficiency of Local Law or Charter Amendment Summary	Delegate Robert Flanagan, Howard County	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 82
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Summary of Other Legislation supported by Jon Weinstein

To Be Filed	Worked with Delegate Atterbeary on legislation that would ensure that one Board of Education member be elected to each of the five Council Districts, with two elected to at-large seats. Like the County Council, Board candidates will have to live in the district they seek to represent. Current Board members live in only three of the five districts.	Jon Weinstein, Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary	To Be Filed
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Stay informed:



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Council



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Website
[Welcome to District 1](#)